

Reproductive Rights after Dobbs



Dr. Bernadette Barton
Professor of Sociology
Director of Gender Studies

Consider

-Why do women want to limit the number of children they have?

- -What is Plan B? Where can you get it?

Reproductive justice

Rooted in intersectionality:

“The human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.”

- Translates to safe and affordable birthing and parenting options including: birth control, freedom from forced sterilization, access to abortion

Check your knowledge

- What percent of pregnancies are unintended?
- How many US women will have an abortion in their lifetimes? (1 in ?)
- -What percent of pregnancies end in abortion?

Abortion facts

- 45% of pregnancies in US are unintended.
- 4 in 10 unintended pregnancies are terminated by abortion.
- 1 in 4 American women will have an abortion in their lifetime
- 19% of all pregnancies (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion.
- Teen pregnancy accounts for only 2 in 10 of all abortions performed in the US
- 89% of abortions occur in the 1st 12 weeks. Only 1.5% occur later in the term.

Who gets abortions

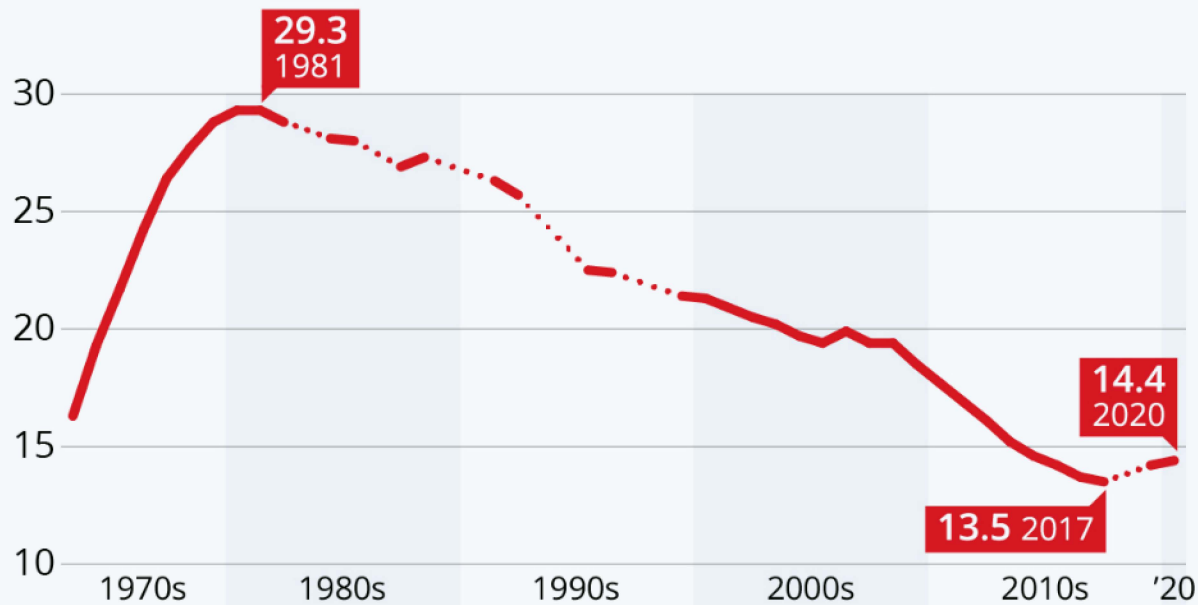
- Women in their 20s have more than 50% of abortions performed
- 6 in 10 women having abortions already have one or more children. Reason: to provide and care for their existing children.
- 75% who have abortions are religiously affiliated.
- 66% having abortions intend to have children in the future.
- One in five having an abortion is an evangelical Christian.
- 75% of abortion patients are poor or low income.

Timeline of Reproductive Rights

- 1965 Supreme Court decision *Griswold v. Connecticut* allowed married couples the legal right to use birth control
- 1972 birth control became available to single people, and 1977 to minors
- 1973 *Roe v. Wade* made abortion legal

U.S. Abortion Rate Ticks Up After Three-Decade Decline

Number of abortions per 1,000 U.S. women aged 15 to 44 since Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision in 1973



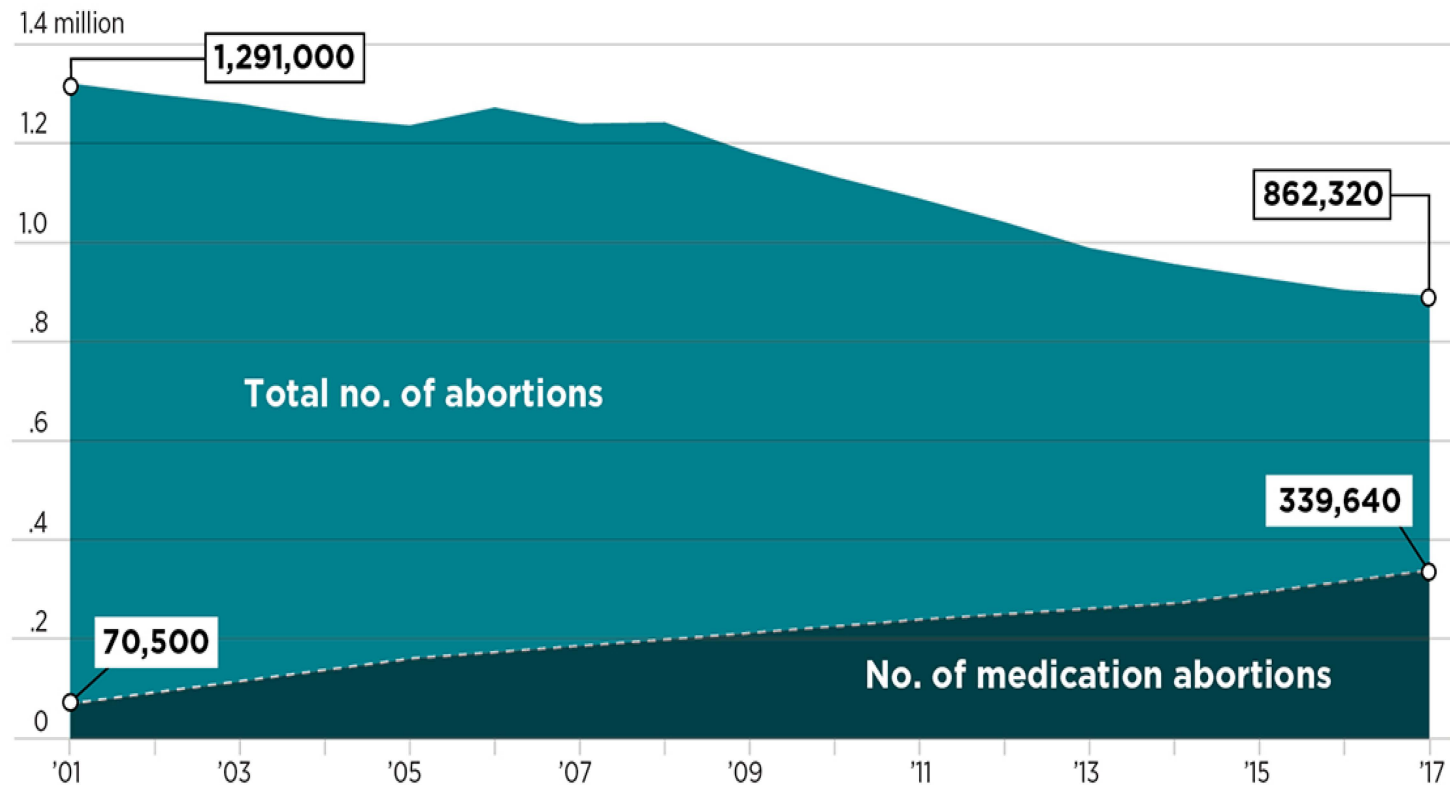
As of July 1 of each year

Source: Guttmacher Institute



MEDICATION ABORTION

As U.S. abortion numbers decline, the share that are medication abortions rises steadily.



June 24, 2022

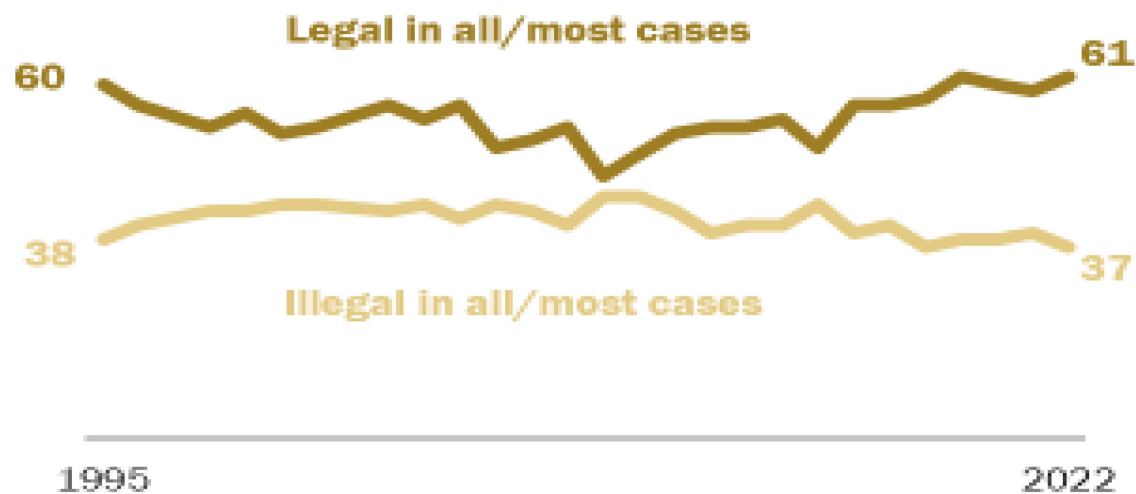
Dobbs v. Jackson:

Supreme Court decision reversing Roe, finding that the US Constitution does not allow the right to an abortion.

Justice Thomas wrote an opinion inviting new legal challenges to contraception, sodomy laws, and marriage equality.

Public views of abortion, 1995-2022

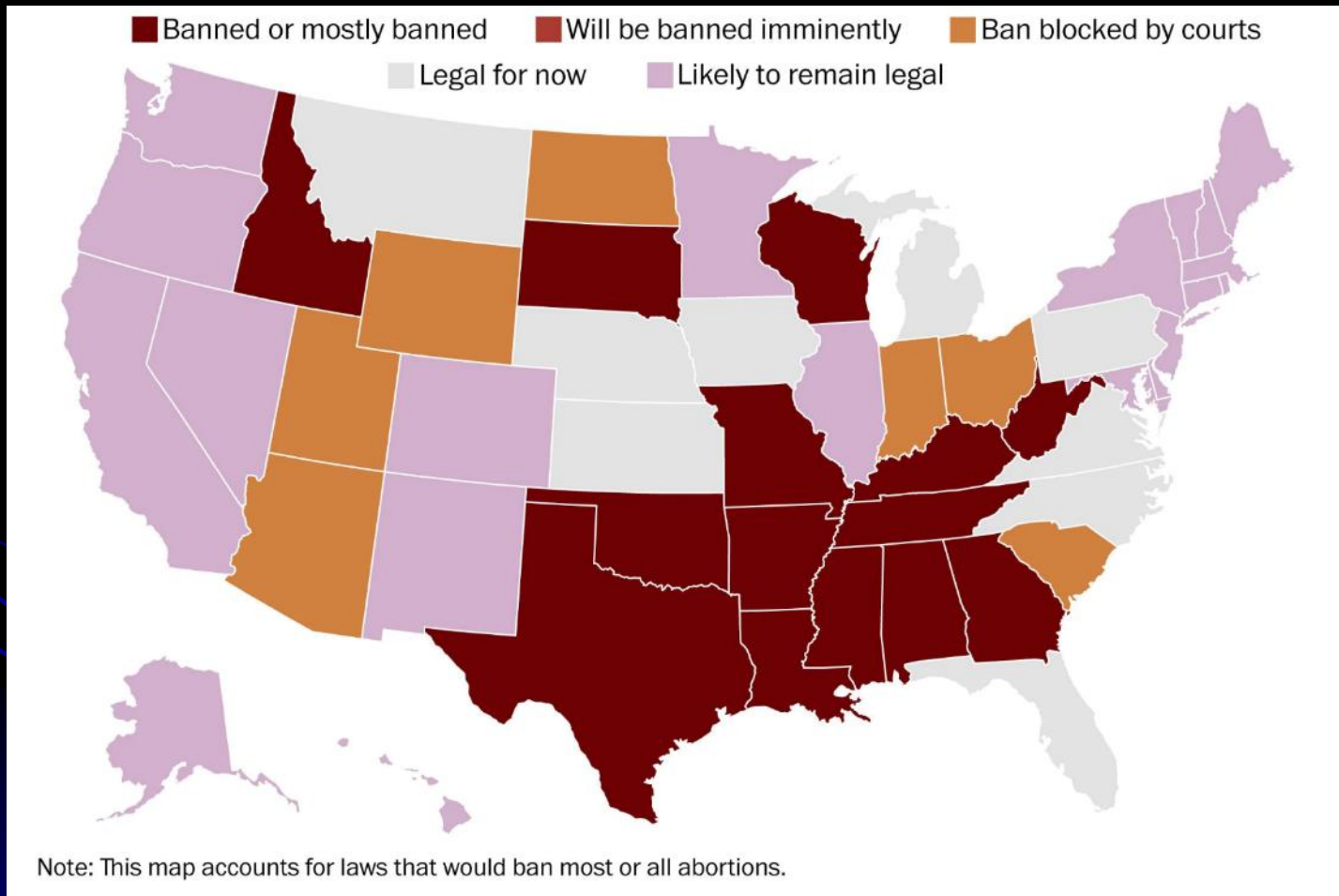
% who say abortion should be ...



Notes: Trend data from 2018 and earlier from surveys conducted by telephone. Data from 1995-2005 from ABC News/Washington Post polls; data for 2006 from AP-Ipsos poll. Trend lines show aggregated data for years where more than one survey was conducted.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 7-13, 2022.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

National Map Oct '22



Post-Roe

We see a(n):

- return to two-tiered access by state, age, and income
- rise in medication abortion
- uptick in prosecution of patients and medical staff

If you're in Kentucky and need an abortion

-You'll need to travel out of Kentucky to get an abortion unless you qualify for an exception. Exceptions are very limited and include:

- To save the pregnant person's life

- To prevent serious risk to the pregnant person's physical health.

-It's legal for you to leave Kentucky and get an abortion out of state.

-Some states require a waiting period. This means you may have to schedule one appointment for a counseling session, then wait a required amount of time before having your abortion appointment.

-If you're under 18, many states require you to get permission from a parent or guardian to get an abortion. If you plan to travel to a state that requires the involvement of a parent or guardian and you need to avoid that, you could see if you're eligible to get a judicial bypass.

On the ballot in November

Amendment 2 – Vote no!!

Are you in favor of amending the Constitution of Kentucky by creating a new Section of the Constitution to be numbered Section 26A to state as follows: To protect human life, nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion?

Advocacy in the region – others?

- Protect Kentucky Access: <https://protectkentucky.com/>
- Kentucky Health Justice Network:
<https://www.kentuckyhealthjusticenetwork.org/>
- [ACLU of Kentucky Reproductive Freedom Project](#)
- [Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky](#)
- [Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice](#)
- [Indy Feminists](#)
- [Kentuckians for the Commonwealth](#)
- [Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice](#)

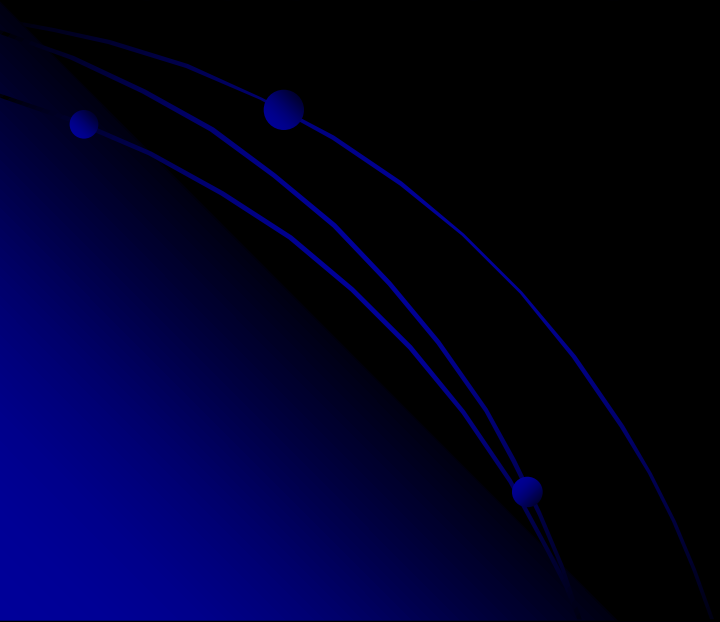
More resources

- Abortion finder: <https://www.abortionfinder.org/>
- Plan C: <https://www.plancpills.org/>
- URGE (Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equality): <https://urge.org/>

Abortion confusion

- false impression about numbers of women getting late term abortions and why
- refusal among some pro-life people not to use the word “abortion” to describe certain terminations
- -Crisis Pregnancy Centers
- stigma silences conversation
- social media can spread misinformation

What policies reduce abortions?



Policies that reduce abortion

- free and easily available birth control
- comprehensive sex education
- strong social welfare programs in
- housing, day care, food, and education

Questions?

Thoughts?

